

Amendments to Claims

1 (previously presented). A composting method comprising maintaining a compostable material in a composting box that includes a main unit and ~~a~~ two detachable side panels, wherein the main unit includes first and second main walls held apart and substantially parallel to each other by two connecting and spacing members located proximate to diagonally opposing corners of the main walls, wherein said detachable side panels form a wall of the composting box when mounted to said main unit, wherein said main walls define opposing first and third sides of the composting box and opposing second and fourth sides of the composting box, and wherein said detachable side panels are adapted (1) to be detachably affixed to said main unit to form opposing walls on said first and third sides of the composting box and (2) to be detachably affixed to said main unit to form opposing walls on said second and fourth sides of the composting box.

2 (currently amended). The composting method of claim 1, further including the steps of (a) detaching at least one of said side panels from said main unit, (b) relocating said main unit by moving said main unit from the compostable material while leaving said compostable material substantially in place, (c) transferring said compostable material back into the relocated main unit and (d) then reattaching said side panel or side panels to the main unit.

3 (original). The composting method of claim 2 wherein said main unit is relocated by sliding or rolling the main unit.

4 (previously presented). The composting method of claim 3 wherein a bottom surface of the main unit includes wheels or rollers.

5 (canceled).

6 (original). The composting method of claim 1, wherein two or more composting piles are maintained simultaneously using a single composting box.

7 (original). A composting method, comprising

a) positioning a composting box on a surface, wherein the composting box includes a main unit and two detachable side panels, the main unit including first and second main walls held apart and substantially parallel to each other by two connecting and spacing members located proximate to diagonally opposing corners of the main walls, wherein said main walls define opposing first and third sides of the composting box and opposing second and fourth sides of the composting box, and wherein said detachable side panels are adapted (1) to be detachably affixed to said main unit to form opposing walls on said first and third sides of the composting box and (2) to be detachably affixed to said main unit to form opposing walls on said second and fourth sides of the composting box, said composting box being positioned such that said main walls are oriented substantially vertically and said detachable side panels are attached to said opposing first and third sides of the composting box and oriented substantially vertically;

b) maintaining a compostable mixture in the composting box under composting conditions;

c) detaching said detachable side panels from the main unit;

d) rotating said main unit while maintaining said main walls in a substantially vertical orientation, so that (1) the compost box is removed from the compostable mixture (2) said opposing first and third sides of the composting box become oriented substantially horizontally and (3) said opposing second and fourth sides of the composting box become oriented substantially vertically; then

e) transferring said compostable mixture back into said main unit and attaching one of said detachable side panels to said second side and the other of said detachable side panels to said fourth side of the composting box.

8 (original). The composting method of claim 7, wherein in step d), said fourth side is positioned adjacent said compostable material and second side is positioned opposite said compostable material, and in step e), a detachable side panel is attached to said second side prior to transferring said compostable material back into said main unit.

9 (original). The composting method of claim 8, wherein in step e), a detachable side panel is attached to said fourth side after transferring said compostable material back into said main unit.

10 (original). The composting method of claim 7, wherein two or more composting piles are maintained simultaneously using a single composting box.

11 (previously presented). A composting box comprising a main unit and two detachable side panels, wherein the main unit includes first and second main walls held apart and substantially parallel to each other by two connecting and spacing members located proximate to diagonally opposing corners of the main walls, wherein said detachable side panel forms a wall of the composting box when mounted to said main unit, and further wherein said first and second main walls define opposing first and third sides of the composting box and opposing second and fourth sides of the composting box, wherein said two detachable side panels are adapted (1) to be detachably affixed to said main unit to form opposing walls on said first and third sides of the composting box and (2) to be detachably affixed to said main unit to form opposing walls on said second and fourth sides of the composting box.

12 (original). The composting box of claim 11 wherein the main unit includes a third main wall that is approximately perpendicular to said first and second main walls.

13-15 (canceled).